

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01833 191518Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 IO-10 SAM-01

SAB-01 EUR-12 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /073 W

----- 092812

O R 191330Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3481

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 165

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1833

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG

SUBJECT: SADAT'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS

1. SADAT ARRIVED DAMASCUS SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 17, ON BRIEF 18-HOUR VISIT TO SYRIA. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN FAHMI AND EGYPTIAN HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION MINISTER UTHMAN. TIGHT SECURITY WAS EVIDENT AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT BOTH FOR EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE. THERE WERE SEVERAL SCUFFLES BETWEEN PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS, WHO NORMALLY DOCILE HERE, AND SYRIAN SECURITY OFFICERS AS PHOTOGRAPHERS JUMPED ROPED OFF AREA AND SOUGHT BEST POSITIONS TO PHOTOGRAPH THE TWO PRESIDENTS.

2. DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES IN ABSENCE OF HARD NEWS TO DATE ON COURSE OF VISIT WERE GENERALLY STRUCK BY LACK OF CEREMONIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01833 191518Z

SURROUNDING SADAT'S BRIEF STOPOVER. THERE WAS NO

OFFICIAL DINNER AND NO ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE WELCOMING DEMONSTRATION OR EVEN DISTRIBUTE PHOTOGRAPHS OF SADAT TO THOSE FEW SYRIANS ON STREETS TO WITNESS HIS ARRIVAL.

3. NEVERTHELESS, THE PRESS STATEMENT MADE BY SADAT DURING EVENING AFTER HIS FIRST OF TWO MEETINGS WITH ASAD BETRAYED NO FRICTION. HIS SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE AT NOON THE FOLLOWING DAY ALSO GAVE NO HINT OF ANY STRAIN IN THE SYRO-EGYPTIAN DIALOGUE. SYRIAN TELEVISION PICTURED A BEAMING ASAD LOCKED IN WARM EMBRACE WITH SADAT AT THEIR LEAVE TAKING.

4. AT HIS MAY 18 PRESS CONFERENCE SADAT HAD A SMILING ARAFAT SEATED BESIDE HIM, AS IF TO SYMBOLIZE THE GOOD TIES BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE PLO. THIS CONFERENCE FOLLOWED AN HOUR'S PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO.

5. WE FOUND SADAT'S FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO PRESS QUERIES OF APRTICULAR INTEREST.

A. EUPHRATES WATER DISPUTE: ASKED WHETHER OR NOT HE HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO TRY TO MEDIATE THE PROBLEM BETWEEN BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS, SADAT ANSWERED GINGERLY THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER IN BOTH CAPITALS BUT ONE "MUST BE VERY CAREFUL" WITH REGARD TO IT. HE AFFIRMED THAT "THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED."

B. UNDOF RENEWAL: "WE DID NOT DISCUSS THIS QUESTION."

C. SADAT AFFIRMED HE WOULD SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE MAJORITY OF ARAB LEADERS IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN SALZBURG. HE EXPECTED TO HEAR PRESIDENT FORD'S VIEWS AND LEARN RESULT OF HIS RECENT POLICY REASSESSMENT.

D. SADAT SAID PALESTINIANS HAD THE RIGHT TO REJECT UN RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 AND TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WOULD GO TO GENEVA. "BUT IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT IF THEY AGREE TO GO TO GENEVA, THE PALESTINIAN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 01833 191518Z

PROBLEM IS A POLITICAL AND NOT A HUMANITRAIAN ONE, AS IT HAS BEEN TACKLED IN THE PAST."

E. SADAT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER SALZBURG A CONFERENCE OF THE CONFRONTATION "STATES", WHICH HE SPECIFIED AS SYRIA, EGYPT, JORDAN AND THE PLO, WOULD BE HELD.
MURPHY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC01833
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750175-0733
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750537/aaaabgtx.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG, GENEVA, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006